



**Nicole Alexander-Scott, MD, MPH**  
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April 6, 2021

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney  
Chairman  
House Committee on Finance  
State House  
82 Smith St.  
Providence, RI 02903

RE: H 5224 - AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION (RI PROMISE)

Dear Chairman Abney:

I am writing in support of H 5224, legislation that would remove the requirement that the Rhode Island Promise Scholarship Program cease with the enrollment of the high school graduating class of 2021 at the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI).

H 5224 aligns with the Governor's FY22 Budget, which recommends removing the sunset of the Rhode Island Promise Scholarship Program. Current law establishes that students graduating in the high school class of 2021 are the last students eligible for the program. The Governor's Budget also recommends a general revenue increase of \$466,974 above the FY21 enacted level for the continued support of the Rhode Island Promise Scholarship Program for recently graduated high school seniors who enroll at CCRI. The total FY22 funding for this scholarship program is \$7.7 million.

Tuition-free college is one of the lowest-cost, highest-impact investments Rhode Island has ever made to help Rhode Islanders succeed. The Rhode Island Promise Scholarship Program has helped many Rhode Islanders by creating a more accessible pathway to achieve a college education. Higher education is essential in driving the State's future. There is no doubt that expanded higher education opportunities will improve the quality of life and earnings potential of Rhode Islanders across their lifespan.

We thank you and the members of the Committee for your favorable consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Nicole Alexander-Scott, MD, MPH  
Director

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance  
The Honorable K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker of the House  
Nicole McCarty, Esquire, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House